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## News Release

# UMC Establishes Partnership with Minnesota Rural Health Association

*By Elizabeth Tollefson, Krista Lemos on Tuesday, September 5, 2006*

CROOKSTON, MN (September 5, 2006) – A shared vision of better health for Minnesota residents has led to establishment of a partnership between the University of Minnesota, Crookston (UMC) and the Minnesota Rural Health Association (MRHA). The partnership was established to advocate for healthy rural communities. “Members of the Rural Health Association have a passion for giving voice to rural health issues. We look forward to the partnership with UMC because we recognize our shared vision to assist rural Minnesota,” MRHA President Liz Quam said. “It’s a vision of healthy communities and healthy residents throughout greater Minnesota.”

As part of the partnership, UMC provides an office location for the MRHA to house Executive Director Judy Neppel, who is employed by the MRHA, which works to protect and enhance accessibility, affordability and quality of health care throughout greater Minnesota. Neppel is located in Selvig 217 on campus. The office was most recently located at Mankato State University. Established in 1994 with the help of the Minnesota Department of Health’s Office of Rural Health, Minnesota Rural Partner and the Minnesota Center for Rural Health, the MRHA is a non-profit organization whose board of directors establishes an annual work plan to meet the organization’s mission which is to bring together people and organizations with diverse interests to advocate for rural health issues.

Neppel can be contacted at [jneppel@umn.edu](mailto:jneppel@umn.edu) or by calling 218-281-8323. To learn more about the Minnesota Rural Health Association, visit [www.mnruralhealth.org](http://www.mnruralhealth.org).

The University of Minnesota, Crookston (UMC) delivers more than 24 different undergraduate degree programs in agriculture; arts, humanities, and social sciences; business; math, science, and technology; and natural resources. UMC is dedicated to helping students and the region aim higher, reach further, and dream big dreams. To learn more, visit [www.UMCrookston.edu](http://www.UMCrookston.edu).

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